(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) Coal India Limited (CIL) has proposed to set up a new subidiary "Coal Videsh Limited" for acquiring coal equities abroad and the proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Black marketing of coal in Jharkhand

1033. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of coal which is excavated by black marketeers and sold in the open market in the State of Jharkhand;

(b) whether it is a fact that trucks with forged documents carry coal all over the country in connivance with district and State administration;

(c) whether Government propose to stop this practice altogether; and

(d) if so, the mechanisms Government would propose to adopt to stop illegal coal mining and trading thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The coal is pilfered/illegally mined stealthily and clandestinely by the miscreants at different places. As such, it is not possible to specify the exact amount of coal which is excavated by black marketeers and sold in the State of Jharkhand.

(b) So far as coal dispatches by road through trucks from coal mines of Coal India Limited (CIL) to the linked consumers who are supplied coal for own use is concerned, Delivery Order is issued to the consumer against monthly allocation based on 100% advance payment of coal value which is cross verified with the Delivery Order Statement received from the Department issuing Delivery Order, to exercise necessary checks. The transporter/authorized coal agent of the consignee carries with him authorization letter duly authenticated by the Sales Department, a copy of which is also available with the loading colliery for cross verification and exercising checks. On completion of loading, the transporter/authorized coal agent of the consignee is issued a dispatch document known as

Road Challan' which contains details of consignee, colliery, delivery order number and weight, grade and size of coal etc. Since sale of coal by CIL is on FOB colliery basis, once the truck leaves the colliery premises, coal companies have no further role to play or checks to exercise. However, State Governments are duly empowered under the law to exercise checks to prevent misuse of documents, if any.

(c) and (d) A High Power Committee has been constituted in the Ministry having, *inter-alia,* representatives of State Governments, to review the issues related to illegal mining of coal. However, since law and order is a State subject, the coal companies maintain close liaison with State authorities to check illegal mining and consequent accidents. State Government of Jharkhand and West Bengal have taken the following steps to prevent illegal mining:

Jharkhand:

(i) Task Forces have been constituted at the State level and at the District levels.

(ii) Representatives of coal companies are associated with it and they meet regularly.

(iii) The State Government extends full support to deal with menace of illegal mining.

West Bengal: Task Force constituted at the State and District levels.

In addition, following steps are taken by the coal companies to prevent illegal mining within their respective command areas:

(i) Rat holes created by illegal mining are being dozed off and filled up with stone and debris wherever possible;

(ii) Concrete walls have been created on the mouth of the abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas;

(iii) Fencing is being constructed at the various illegal mining sites alongwith displaying of signboards mentioning "Dangerous and Prohibited Place";

(iv) Dumping of the overburden is being done on the outcrop zones, which are not required to be mined;

(v) Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and informing district authorities of the same for taking preventive action;

(vi) Installation of check-posts at vulnerable points to check transport documents;

(vii) Training of existing security personnel, refresher training of CISF personnel and basic training of new recruits in security discipline for strengthening the security set up;

Import of coal

† 1034. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal reserves in the country;

(b) the quantity of coal that has been mined from these reserves;

(c) whether it is a fact that coal is being imported despite coal reserves in abundance; and

(d) the efforts being made by Government for increasing the mining capacity of coal companies so that the country achieves self-sufficiency in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) As per the estimates of Geological Survey of India (GSI), as on 1.1.2007 a total of 255.17 billion tonnes of geological resources of coal has so far been estimated in India. The total coal extracted from the coalfields of India since 1950 upto 2004-05 is around 8.02 billion tonnes (Source: Coal Controllers' Organization).

(c) and (d) Despite coal reserves in abundance in our country, the fact remains that the techno-commercially exploitable reserves pertaining to good quality coking coal and low ash thermal coal are scarce and hence, indigenous production of these types of coal is not able to keep pace with their burgeoning demand. Thus these types of coal are required to be imported to meet the additional surge in such demand. Following steps

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.